



CCPUC Panel: Resiliency: Understanding and Addressing the Impacts of Electric Grid Outages and other Emergencies on the Telecommunications, Water, Wastewater, and Transportation Sectors

Speaker Bios

Event Date: Wednesday, 1/27/21, 3-4:30 pm Pacific

Leuwam Tesfai - Moderator

Leuwam Tesfai serves as Commissioner Shiroma's Chief of Staff and Legal Advisor. Prior to her governor's appointment to this role, Leuwam practiced in the federal section of the CPUC's Legal Division representing the CPUC before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and advising on energy matters including ratemaking, transmission planning, procurement, and climate change. Leuwam also previously served as an advisor to Commissioner Liane M. Randolph. Prior to joining the CPUC, Leuwam worked in the environmental and energy practice of an international law firm and for a renewable energy certification program. Leuwam is a graduate of the University of San Francisco School of Law and Emory University.

Cris Liban

Dr. Cris B. Liban, P.E. is LA Metro's Executive Officer, Environmental Compliance and Sustainability. Cris oversees LA Metro's internationally recognized Environmental, Sustainability, and Energy initiatives. A published author and national speaker, he is also very involved with transportation and environmental industry and research activities particularly as Chair of several American Public Transportation Association sub-committees; Member of the Transportation Research Board ADC60 Resource Conservation and Recovery Committee; Chair of two National Academies' Transportation Cooperative Research Program (TCRP) studies related to Climate Change Impacts to transit; and a Member of the National Cooperative Highways Research Program (NCHRP) study to determine a lifecycle and cost framework to determine climate change solutions implementation. He is also a Commissioner in the City of Los Angeles Board of Transportation Commissioners. This past year, he was also appointed to the Los Angeles County Beach Commission, which oversees all LA County Beach activities including environmental, transportation, and construction issues. Cris has degrees in geology (magna cum laude), civil and environmental engineering, and environmental science and engineering.

Dave Pedersen (Las Virgenes Municipal Water District)

Dave Pedersen is the General Manager for the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District. As the District's chief executive officer, Dave implements policies adopted by the elected Board of Directors and oversees the business of the District. Dave provides leadership in the administration of District programs; ensures that District services meet the needs of customers; coordinates the effective use of facilities, finances and personnel to achieve District goals and objectives in the Strategic Plan; and keeps the Board fully informed.

Rick Saldivar (California American Water)

Rick Saldivar is a Project Manager at California American Water Company.

Melissa Slawson (GeoLinks)

Melissa Slawson is General Counsel and V.P. of Government Affairs and Education. In that role, she handles all legal and regulatory matters, which includes tracking policies and legislation that may affect GeoLinks' business and advocating for GeoLinks' interests before various regulatory bodies (including the FCC). Melissa began her legal practice in the telecommunications space at the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) as a regulator, then entered private practice at a law firm specializing in regulatory work for a variety of telecommunications companies (cable, wireline, wireless, etc.), and then was GC for a small wireless company.

Michael Turner (LA Metro)

Michael T. Turner is the Deputy Executive Officer, Government Relations, at the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority. In that role, Mr. Turner manages the Agency's Government Relations Department. The team of 6 professionals along with contract lobbyists in Washington D.C. and Sacramento, is responsible for advocacy on all state and federal legislation affecting transportation and transportation funding. Mr. Turner directly implements the state legislative function including communication with the 39 members of the Los Angeles County Legislative Delegation, the Governor's Office and State agencies.

On behalf of the agency, Mr. Turner has worked on Metro sponsored legislation related to a variety of transportation issues from infrastructure financing, innovative project delivery, congestion pricing and the legislation authorizing Measure R. Additionally Mr. Turner is active in various statewide transportation related groups and has worked to develop consensus around major transportation issues in the region.

Mr. Turner has a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from UCLA and a Master's Degree in Urban Planning from USC.

Chris Warner (PG&E)

Chris Warner is Chief Counsel at PG&E, where he has served in various legal positions for over 30 years, including more recently providing legal support for major customer residential rate reforms and new technologies and services to customers, including transportation electrification, residential electric rate reform, advanced metering technology, DER integration and various technology demonstration projects. Chris also is PG&E's lead privacy counsel, responsible for legal advice on California's new consumer privacy law, the California Consumer Privacy Act.